



Exhibit A

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: K. McMILLAN

Art Unit: 1614

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

SYNERGISTIC ANALGESIC COMBINATION
OF OPIOID ANALGESIC AND
CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITOR

200.1079US

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NO. 1

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 7, 1999

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Examiner's particular attention is directed to U.S. Patent No. 5,859,257, particularly column 4, lines 33-39 (referenced as 'AA' on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form). The Examiner's attention is also directed to U.S. Patents No. 5,863,922, 5,840,731 and 5,869,498 (referenced as

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or documents referred to as attached therein and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "first class mail" in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" on June 7, 1999.
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

BY: Jacqueline P. Swartz

'AB' 'AC' and 'AD' on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form) which are related to combinations of NMDA antagonists with opioids and NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). The Examiner's attention is further directed to the reference cited as 'AP' on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form, Comparative Analgesic Efficacy of Nimesulide and Diclofenac Gels after Topical Application on the Skin. This reference relates to the comparative analgesic efficacy of nimesulide and diclofenac.

Identification of the references provided herewith is not to be construed as an admission by the Applicants or their representatives that such references are available as "prior art" against the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying PTO-1449 form be considered and made of record.

Although the undersigned has attempted to direct the Examiner's attention to particular sections of certain of the enclosed references, the undersigned wishes to make clear that such comments made herein are not intended to be an indication that the other sections of those references are not pertinent; nor is it meant to be taken that the remaining cited references are necessarily less pertinent. The Examiner is encouraged to carefully review each and every one of the references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement on his own and draw his own conclusions as to their pertinence.

Respectfully Submitted,

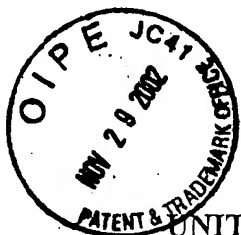
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC



Clifford M. Davidson

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: K. McMILLAN

Art Unit: 1614

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

SYNERGISTIC ANALGESIC COMBINATION
OF OPIOID ANALGESIC AND
CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NO. 2

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 7, 1999

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The references cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form relate to various compositions containing opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (commonly referred to as 'NSAIDS').

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or documents referred to as attached therein and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "first class mail" in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" on June 7, 1999.
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

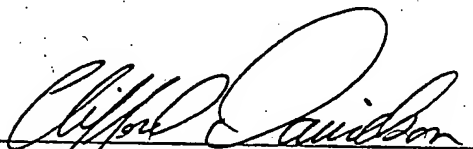
BY: Jaqueline Brander

Identification of the references provided herewith is not to be construed as an admission by the Applicants or their representatives that such references are available as "prior art" against the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying PTO-1449 form be considered and made of record.

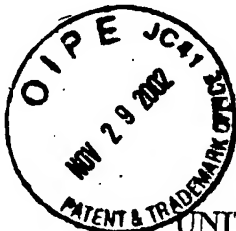
Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clifford M. Davidson", is written over a horizontal line.

Clifford M. Davidson
Reg. No. 32,728

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New York, New York 10036
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: K. McMILLAN

Art Unit: 1614

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

SYNERGISTIC ANALGESIC COMBINATION
OF OPIOID ANALGESIC AND
CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITOR

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NO. 3

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 7, 1999

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The references cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form relate to compounds described as being useful in the treatment of cyclooxygenase-2 mediated disease states. Reference 'AM' is cited for its discussion of COX-2 and COX-1 activity.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or documents referred to as attached therein and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "first class mail" in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" on June 7, 1999.
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

BY: Jacqueline Reverder

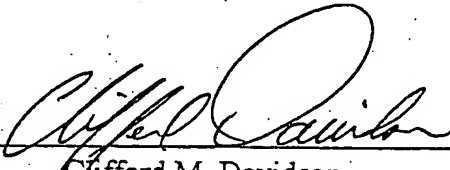
The Examiner's particular attention is directed to U.S. Patents No. 5,409,944 and 5,436,265, referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AA,' and 'AB.' These patents describe, *inter alia*, compounds with cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory properties in combination with "antitussives including codeine, hydrocodone, caramiphen, carbetapentane or dextromethorphan." (See column 6, lines 33-35 of the '944 patent, and column 5, lines 48-50 of the '265 patent). The Examiner's attention is also directed to U.S. Patent No. 5,521,213, referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AD.' This patent discloses, *inter alia*, "[a compound for treating cyclooxygenase-2 mediated diseases] and one or more ingredients such as another pain reliever including acetaminophen or phenacetin . . . an antitussive including codeine, hydrocodone, caramiphen, carbetapentane or dextromethorphan" (See column 6, lines 7-15). A similar disclosure is also found in U.S. Patent No. 5,550,142 referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AE,' at column 7, line 56 - column 8, line 5, U.S. Patent 5,552,422, referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AF,' at column 9, line 59 - column 10, line 7, U.S. Patent 5,604,253, referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AG,' at column 10 line 66 - column 11, line 14, and U.S. patent 5,639,780, referenced on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form as 'AH,' at column 11, lines 36-51.

Identification of the references provided herewith is not to be construed as an admission by the Applicants or their representatives that such references are available as "prior art" against the present application.

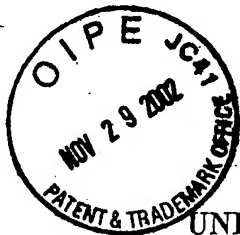
It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying PTO-1449 form be considered and made of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC


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Reg. No. 32,728

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200.1079US

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: K. McMILLAN

Art Unit: 1614

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

SYNERGISTIC ANALGESIC COMBINATION
OF OPIOID ANALGESIC AND
CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITOR

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TECH CENTER 1600/2800

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 4, 2000

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The references cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 Form describe various COX-2 inhibitors, including 4-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-phenyl-2(5H)-furanone (rofecoxib), the elected species set forth in the claims as amended.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or documents referred to as attached therein and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "first class mail" in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" on February 4, 2000.
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

BY: Pat J. [Signature]


The references further describe the COX-2 inhibitors described therein in combination with "one or more ingredients such as another pain reliever including acetaminophen or phenacetin;...[and] an antitussive including codeine, hydrocodone," (See column 8 of the '955 patent, and column 13 of the '374 patent). This is the same discussion included in other patents assigned to Merck Frosst Canada Inc., which was previously pointed out to the Examiner in the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 7, 1999. Oxycodone is not included in this discussion.

Identification of the references provided herewith is not to be construed as an admission by the Applicants or their representatives that such references are available as "prior art" against the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying PTO-1449 form be considered and made of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC



Clifford M. Davidson
Reg. No. 32,728

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
1140 Avenue of the Americas, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10036
(212) 997-1028



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

200.1079US

Re: Application of: BURCH et al.

Serial No.: 09/154,354

Group No.: 1627

Filed: September 17, 1998

For: SYNERGISTIC COMBINATION OF OPIOID ANALGESIC
AND CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 INHIBITOR

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Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4) or alternatively under 37
C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1) with accompanying statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 26, 2001

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4), Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified application. It is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination, therefore no fee is due.

In the event an Office Action has been mailed, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1) with a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) declaring that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

I hereby certify that the documents referred to as attached therein and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as "first class mail" in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" on September 26, 2001.

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

BY: J. Daniel Fantaral

It is pointed out to the Examiner that all of the cited references (AE through AO) were cited in the European Search Report from the corresponding European application. A copy of the search report is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited on the accompanying PTO Form-1449 be considered and made of record. If any of the publications listed thereon are missing, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned so that a copy can be promptly forwarded.

In the event that it is determined that any additional fee is due, the Examiner is authorized to charge said fee to DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC, Deposit Account No. 50-0552. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable over all the references made of record at this time.

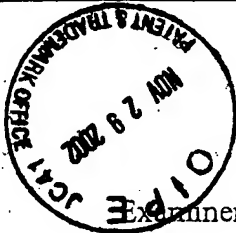
Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 

Robert J. Paradiso
Reg. No. 41,240

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485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940



200.1079US

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: K. McMILLAN

Art Unit: 1614

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

ANALGESIC COMBINATION OF
OXYCODONE AND ROFECOXIB

RECEIVED
DEC 04 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56

Box: ISSUE FEE

September 13, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the following: Statement Of Ground and Particulars in Support of Opposition attached as Appendix A (20 pages); Claims of Australian Patent Application No. 742097 (93984/98) attached as Appendix B (5 pages); and Form PTO-1449 (2 pages) with copies of cited references pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

Attached as Appendix A is a Statement of Grounds and Particulars in Support of Opposition dated June 14, 2002, brought by Pharmacia Corporation at the Australian Patent Office opposing Australian Patent Application No. 742097 (93984/98), the corresponding Australian application of the present U.S. application.

Attached as Appendix B is a copy of the current claims of Australian Patent Application No. 742097 (93984/98), which claims the same priority as the present application.

References D1 to D7 (pages 2 to 4 of the statement of Appendix A), D9 to D16 (pages 5 to 7 of the statement of Appendix A) and D21 to D37 (pages 8 to 11 of the statement of Appendix A), correspond to references AA through BM of attached Form PTO-1449.

References D8 (page 5 of the statement of Appendix A) and D17 to D20 (page 7 to page 8 of the statement of Appendix A) are not listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 as these references have already been made of record in the present application. Specifically, reference D8 was cited as reference AA (on Form PTO-1449 labeled 1 of 1) and references D17, D18, D19, and D20 were cited as references BB, BD, BF, and BH, respectively, (on Form PTO-1499 labeled 2 of 2), in the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 7, 1999.

This Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying Form PTO-1449 are being filed after a notice of allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the issue fee in accordance with C.F.R. §§ 1.97(d) and 1.97(e).

In accordance with C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed to satisfy the fee requirement due under 1.17(p) for filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. If any of the listed references are missing, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned so that a copy may be promptly forwarded.

In the event any additional fee is due or overpayment made in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said deficiency or credit overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 

Robert J. Paradiso
Reg. No. 41,240

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Bennett M. CELSA

Art Unit: 1627

Re: Application of:

Ronald M. BURCH, et al.

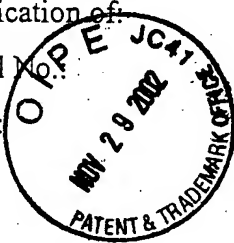
Serial No.:

09/154,354

Filed:

September 17, 1998

For:

ANALGESIC COMBINATION OF
OXYCODONE AND ROFECOXIB**RECEIVED**
DEC 04 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2800SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56

Box: ISSUE FEE

October 1, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby make of record the reference cited on the attached Form PTO-1449 and Appendix A, which is an amendment of the Statement of Grounds and Particulars in support of Opposition previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 13, 2002.

The Pharmacia Corporation, the Opponent of the corresponding Australian application requested amendment of their Statement to include a further document (referenced in the Statement as 38D). A marked-up copy of the Statement showing the amendments is attached as Appendix A, and the further document is cited as reference AA in the attached PTO-1449 Form.

This Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying Form PTO-1449 are being filed after a notice of allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the issue fee in accordance with C.F.R. §§ 1.97(d) and 1.97(e).

In accordance with C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement

was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed to satisfy the fee requirement due under 1.17(p) for filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

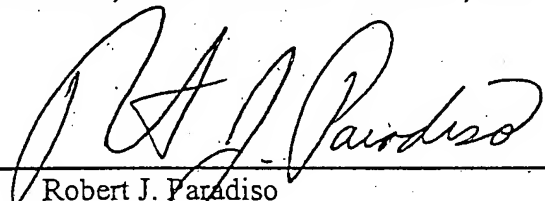
It is respectfully requested that the reference cited in the accompanying Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. If this reference is found to be missing, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned so that a copy may be promptly forwarded.

In the event any additional fee is due or overpayment made in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said deficiency or credit overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By:



Robert J. Paradiso
Reg. No. 41,240

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940